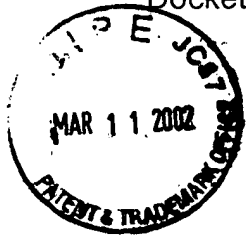


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BOX AF

Docket No.: 20347 US (C38435/111656)



RESPONSE UNDER
37 CFR 1.116

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

EXAMINING GROUP 1652

AF
1600
#12/B
(NE)
Dmt
3-18-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :
Heinrich BACHMANN *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/504,393

Filed: February 15, 2000

For: β, β -CAROTENE 15, 15'-
DIOXYGENASES, NUCLEIC ACID
SEQUENCES CODING THEREFOR
AND THEIR USE

)
)
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)

Examiner: Yong PAK

Art Unit: 1652

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MAR 15 2002
TECH CENTER 1600/2900

New York, New York
February 28, 2002

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
INCLUDING AMENDMENT AND PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

Box AF
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

The shortened statutory period of time for response to the Office Action of August 28, 2001, expired on November 28, 2001. A three-month extension of time to respond to the Office Action is hereby requested. With this extension, the due date for reply to the Office Action is February 28, 2002. Enclosed is a check in the amount of

03/12/2002 SDENB081 00000065 09504393

01 FC:117

920.00 OP